

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract because it exceeds 150 words. Accordingly, the abstract has been currently amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the abstract is now in acceptable form.

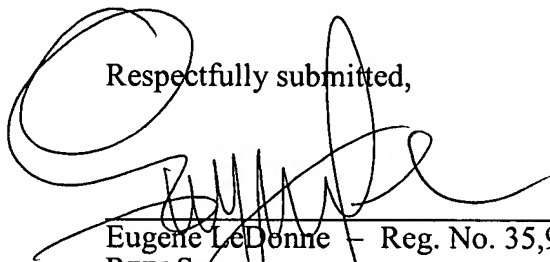
The Examiner has also objected to claims 3-6 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to claims in the alternative only. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,147,797 to Lee ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,856,872 to Spitznas et al. ("Spitznas").

Applicants note that all of Examiner's objections/rejections relate to claim 1-6. However, as of Applicants' Preliminary Amendment dated September 9, 2005, Applicants respectfully note that claims 1-6 were canceled, and are thus no longer pending in this application. Rather, Applicants' Preliminary Amendment added claims 7-12. Therefore, claims 7-12 are the claims which are pending in the current application, and not claims 1-6.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the application be examined with respect to pending claims 7-12. Applicants further respectfully assert that the next Office Action to be issued should not be marked final, as the pending claims have yet to be properly examined. Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 7-12 of the Preliminary Amendment are in allowable form, and therefore respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 7-12.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene LeDonne', is written over a horizontal line.

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